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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

AMERANTH, INC.

Plaintiff,

v.

EMN8, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. **'12CV1659 MMARBB**

**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT
INFRINGEMENT**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 **COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

2 Plaintiff Ameranth, Inc., for its Complaint against defendant EMN8, Inc. (herein
3 “EMN8”), avers as follows:

4 **PARTIES**

5 1. Plaintiff Ameranth, Inc. (“Ameranth”) is a Delaware corporation having a principal
6 place of business at 5820 Oberlin Drive, Suite 202, San Diego, California 92121. Ameranth
7 develops, manufactures and sells, *inter alia*, hospitality industry, entertainment, restaurant and
8 food service information technology solutions under the trademarks 21st Century
9 Communications™, and 21st Century Restaurant™, among others, comprising the
10 synchronization and integration of hospitality information and hospitality software applications
11 between fixed, wireless and/or internet applications, including but not limited to computer
12 servers, web servers, databases, affinity/social networking systems, desktop computers,
13 laptops, “smart” phones and other wireless handheld computing devices.

14 2. Defendant EMN8, Inc. (herein “EMN8”) is, on information and belief, a Delaware
15 corporation having a principal place of business and headquarters in San Diego, California. On
16 information and belief, EMN8 makes, uses, sells and/or offers for sale, restaurant, foodservice,
17 point-of-sale and property management and other hospitality information technology products,
18 software, components and/or systems within this Judicial District, including the EMN8
19 Products as defined herein.

20 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 3. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United
22 States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, 281-285.

23 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and
24 1338(a).

25 5. On information and belief, Defendant engages in (a) the offer for sale or license and
26 sale or license of hospitality, restaurant, food service, ordering, products and/or components in
27 the United States, including this Judicial District, including services, products, software, and
28 components, comprising wireless and internet POS and/or hospitality aspects; (b) the

1 installation and maintenance of said services, products, software, components and/or systems
2 in hospitality industry, restaurant, food service, and/or entertainment information technology
3 systems in the United States, including this Judicial District; and/or (c) the use of hospitality
4 industry, restaurant, food service, and/or entertainment information technology systems
5 comprising said services, products, software, components and/or systems in the United States,
6 including this Judicial District.

7 6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant commits acts
8 of patent infringement in this Judicial District including, *inter alia*, making, using, offering for
9 sale or license, and/or selling or licensing infringing services, products, software, components
10 and/or systems in this Judicial District.

11 7. Venue is proper in this Judicial District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c) and
12 1400(b).

13 **BACKGROUND**

14 8. Ameranth was established in 1996 to develop and provide its 21st Century
15 Communications™ innovative information technology solutions for the hospitality industry
16 (inclusive of, e.g., restaurants, hotels, casinos, nightclubs, cruise ships and other entertainment
17 and sports venues). Ameranth has been widely recognized as a technology leader in the
18 provision of wireless and internet-based systems and services to, *inter alia*, restaurants, hotels,
19 casinos, cruise ships and entertainment and sports venues. Ameranth's award winning
20 inventions enable, in relevant part, generation and synchronization of menus, including but not
21 limited to restaurant menus, event tickets, and other products across fixed, wireless and/or
22 internet platforms as well as synchronization of hospitality information and hospitality
23 software applications across fixed, wireless and internet platforms, including but not limited to,
24 computer servers, web servers, databases, affinity/social networking systems, desktop
25 computers, laptops, "smart" phones and other wireless handheld computing devices.

26 9. Ameranth began development of the inventions leading to the patent-in-suit and the
27 other patents in this patent family in the late Summer of 1998, at a time when the then-
28 available wireless and internet hospitality offerings were extremely limited in functionality,

1 were not synchronized and did not provide an integrated system-wide solution to the pervasive
2 ordering, reservations, affinity program and information management needs of the hospitality
3 industry. Ameranth uniquely recognized the actual problems that needed to be resolved in
4 order to meet those needs, and thereafter conceived and developed its breakthrough inventions
5 and products to provide systemic and comprehensive solutions directed to optimally meeting
6 these industry needs. Ameranth has expended considerable effort and resources in inventing,
7 developing and marketing its inventions and protecting its rights therein.

8 10. Ameranth's pioneering inventions have been widely adopted and are thus now
9 essential to the modern wireless hospitality enterprise of the 21st Century. Ameranth's
10 solutions have been adopted, licensed and/or deployed by numerous entities across the
11 hospitality industry.

12 11. The adoption of Ameranth's technology by industry leaders and the wide acclaim
13 received by Ameranth for its technological innovations are just some of the many
14 confirmations of the breakthrough aspects of Ameranth's inventions. Ameranth has received
15 twelve different technology awards (three with "end customer" partners) and has been widely
16 recognized as a hospitality wireless/internet technology leader by almost all major national and
17 hospitality print publications, *e.g.*, The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, USA Today and
18 many others. Ameranth was personally nominated by Bill Gates, the Founder of Microsoft, for
19 the prestigious Computerworld Honors Award that Ameranth received in 2001 for its
20 breakthrough synchronized reservations/ticketing system with the Improv Comedy Theatres.
21 In his nomination, Mr. Gates described Ameranth as "one of the leading pioneers of
22 information technology for the betterment of mankind." This prestigious award was based on
23 Ameranth's innovative synchronization of wireless/web/fixed hospitality software technology.
24 Subsequently, the United States Patent and Trademark Office granted Ameranth a number of
25 currently-issued patents, two of which are the basis for this lawsuit. Ameranth has issued press
26 releases announcing these patent grants on business wires, on its web sites and at numerous
27 trade shows since the first of the presently-asserted patents issued in 2002. A number of
28

1 companies have licensed patents and technology from Ameranth, recognizing and confirming
2 the value of Ameranth's innovations.

3 **RELATED CASES PREVIOUSLY FILED**

4 12. The Ameranth patents asserted herein, U.S. Patent No. 6,384,850 (the "'850 patent"),
5 U.S. Patent No. 6,871,325 (the "'325 patent"), and U.S. Patent No. 8,146,077 (the "'077
6 patent"), are all patents in Ameranth's "Information Management and Synchronous
7 Communications" patent family.

8 13. Ameranth is also currently asserting claims of these same patents in separate
9 lawsuits, against other defendants, that are already pending in this Court. The first-filed
10 lawsuit asserts claims of the '850 and '325 patents and is entitled *Ameranth v. Pizza Hut, Inc.*
11 *et al.*, Case No. 3:11-cv-01810-JLS-NLS. Lawsuits subsequently filed by Ameranth in this
12 Court, asserting claims of the '077 patent, include Case Nos. 3:12-cv-00729-JLS-NLS; 3:12-
13 cv-00731-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00732-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00733-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00737-JLS-
14 NLS; 3:12-cv-00738-JLS-NLS; 3:12-cv-00739-JLS-NLS; and 3:12-cv-00742-JLS-NLS.
15 Another lawsuit subsequently filed by Ameranth in this Court, asserting claims of the '850,
16 '325, and '077 patents, is Case No. 3:12-cv-00858-JLS-NLS.

17 **COUNT I**

18 **Patent Infringement (U.S. Pat. No. 6,384,850)**

19 **(35 U.S.C. § 271)**

20 14. Plaintiff reiterates and incorporates the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-13 above
21 as if fully set forth herein.

22 15. On May 7, 2002, United States Patent No. 6,384,850 entitled "Information
23 Management and Synchronous Communications System with Menu Generation" ("the '850
24 patent") (a true and copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**) was duly and legally issued
25 by the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

26 16. Plaintiff Ameranth is the lawful owner by assignment of all right, title and interest in
27 and to the '850 patent.

1 17. On information and belief, defendant EMN8 has indirectly infringed and continues to
2 indirectly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, in violation of
3 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), by actively, knowingly, and intentionally inducing direct infringement by
4 other persons, by making, using, offering for sale or license and/or selling or licensing
5 infringing systems, products, and/or services in the United States without authority or license
6 from Ameranth, including but not limited to the EMN8 products/services, which include, *inter*
7 *alia*, application program interfaces (APIs), apps for smartphones and other computing devices,
8 and/or other software and/or hardware to enable clients' online/mobile ordering systems,
9 integration with e-mail and affinity program and social media applications such as Facebook,
10 Twitter, Groupon, and YouTube, and/or other third-party web-based applications, and other
11 hospitality aspects ("EMN8 Products").

12 18. On information and belief, systems including one or more of the EMN8 Products, as
13 deployed and/or used at or from one or more locations by EMN8, its agents, distributors,
14 partners, affiliates, licensees, and/or their customers, infringe one or more valid and
15 enforceable claims of the '850 patent, by, *inter alia*, doing at least one of the following: (a)
16 Generating and transmitting menus in a system including a central processing unit, a data
17 storage device, a computer operating system containing a graphical user interface, one or more
18 displayable main menus, modifier menus, and sub-modifier menus, and application software
19 for generating a second menu and transmitting it to a wireless handheld computing device or a
20 Web page; and/or (b) Enabling ordering and other hospitality functions via iPhone, Android,
21 and other internet-enabled wireless handheld computing devices as well as via Web pages,
22 storing hospitality information and data on at least one central database, on at least one wireless
23 handheld computing device, and on at least one Web server and Web page, and synchronizing
24 applications and data, including but not limited to applications and data relating to ordering,
25 between at least one central database, wireless handheld computing devices, and at least one
26 Web server and Web page; utilizing an interface that provides a single point of entry that
27 allows the synchronization of at least one wireless handheld computing device and at least one
28 Web page with at least one central database; allowing information to be entered via Web pages,

1 transmitted over the internet, and automatically communicated to at least one central database
2 and to wireless handheld computing devices; allowing information to be entered via wireless
3 handheld computing devices, transmitted over the internet, and automatically communicated to
4 at least one central database and to Web pages.

5 19. On information and belief, customers of EMN8, including consumers and restaurant
6 operators, use the EMN8 Products. EMN8 provides instruction and direction regarding the use
7 of the EMN8 Products, and advertises, promotes, and encourages the use of the EMN8
8 Products.

9 20. On information and belief, EMN8 has had knowledge of the '850 patent, and knew or
10 should have known that its continued offering and deployment of the EMN8 Products, and its
11 continued support of consumers, restaurant operators, and other users of the EMN8 Products,
12 would induce direct infringement by those users. Additionally, EMN8 intended that its actions
13 would induce direct infringement by those users.

14 21. On information and belief, Defendant has indirectly infringed and continues to
15 indirectly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, in violation of
16 35 U.S.C. § 271(c).

17 22. By distributing, selling, offering, offering to sell or license and/or selling or licensing
18 the EMN8 Products, EMN8 provides non-staple articles of commerce to others for use in
19 infringing systems, products, and/or services. Additionally, EMN8 provides instruction and
20 direction regarding the use of the EMN8 Products, and advertises, promotes, and encourages
21 the use of the EMN8 Products. Users of systems including one or more of the EMN8 Products
22 directly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent for the reasons set
23 forth hereinabove.

24 23. On information and belief, EMN8 has had knowledge of the '850 patent, including
25 knowledge that the EMN8 Products, which are non-staple articles of commerce, have been
26 used as a material part of the claimed invention of the '850 patent, and that there are no
27 substantial non-infringing uses for the EMN8 Products.

1 Generating and transmitting menus in a system including a central processing unit, a data
2 storage device, a computer operating system containing a graphical user interface, one or more
3 displayable main menus, modifier menus, and sub-modifier menus, and application software
4 for generating a second menu and transmitting it to a wireless handheld computing device or a
5 Web page; and/or (b) Enabling ordering and other hospitality functions via iPhone, Android,
6 and other internet-enabled wireless handheld computing devices as well as via Web pages,
7 storing hospitality information and data on at least one central database, on at least one wireless
8 handheld computing device, and on at least one Web server and Web page, and synchronizing
9 applications and data, including but not limited to applications and data relating to orders,
10 between at least one central database, wireless handheld computing devices, and at least one
11 Web server and Web page; and sending alerts, confirmations, and other information regarding
12 orders to various wireless mobile devices.

13 31. On information and belief, customers of EMN8, including consumers and restaurant
14 operators, use the EMN8 Products in a manner that infringes upon one or more valid and
15 enforceable claims of the '325 patent. EMN8 provides instruction and direction regarding the
16 use of the EMN8 Products and advertises, promotes, and encourages the use of the EMN8
17 Products.

18 32. On information and belief, Defendant actively induces others to infringe the '325
19 patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. §271(b) by knowingly encouraging, aiding and abetting
20 customers of EMN8, including consumers and restaurant operators, to use the infringing
21 EMN8 Products in the United States without authority or license from Ameranth.

22 33. On information and belief, Defendant contributorily infringes and continues to
23 contributorily infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '325 patent, in violation
24 of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) by offering to sell and/or selling components of systems on which claims
25 of the '325 patent read, constituting a material part of the invention, knowing that the
26 components were especially adapted for use in systems which infringe claims of the '325
27 patent.

1 40. Plaintiff Ameranth is the lawful owner by assignment of all right, title and interest in
2 and to the '077 patent.

3 41. On information and belief, defendant EMN8 has indirectly infringed and continues to
4 indirectly infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '077 patent, in violation of
5 35 U.S.C. § 271(b), by actively, knowingly, and intentionally inducing direct infringement by
6 other persons, by making, using, offering for sale or license and/or selling or licensing
7 infringing systems, products, and/or services in the United States without authority or license
8 from Ameranth, including but not limited to the EMN8 Products.

9 42. On information and belief, systems including one or more of the EMN8 Products, as
10 deployed and/or used at or from one or more locations by EMN8, its agents, distributors,
11 partners, affiliates, licensees, and/or their customers, infringe one or more valid and
12 enforceable claims of the '077 patent, by, *inter alia*, doing at least one of the following: (a)
13 Configuring and transmitting menus in a system including a central processing unit, a data
14 storage device, a computer operating system containing a graphical user interface, one or more
15 displayable master menus, menu configuration software enabled to generate a menu
16 configuration for a wireless handheld computing device in conformity with a customized
17 display layout, and enabled for synchronous communications and to format the menu
18 configuration for a customized display layout of at least two different wireless handheld
19 computing device display sizes, and/or (b) Enabling ordering and other hospitality functions
20 via iPhone, Android, and other internet-enabled wireless handheld computing devices as well
21 as via Web pages, storing hospitality information and data on at least one database, on at least
22 one wireless handheld computing device, and on at least one Web server and Web page, and
23 synchronizing applications and data, including but not limited to applications and data relating
24 to orders, between at least one database, wireless handheld computing devices, and at least one
25 Web server and Web page; utilizing communications control software enabled to link and
26 synchronize hospitality information between at least one database, wireless handheld
27 computing device, and web page, to display information on web pages and on different
28 wireless handheld computing device display sizes, and to allow information to be entered via

1 Web pages, transmitted over the internet, and automatically communicated to at least one
2 database and to wireless handheld computing devices; allowing information to be entered via
3 wireless handheld computing devices, transmitted over the internet, and automatically
4 communicated to at least one database and to Web pages.

5 43. On information and belief, customers of EMN8, including consumers and restaurant
6 operators, use the EMN8 Products in a manner that infringes upon one or more valid and
7 enforceable claims of the '077 patent. EMN8 provides instruction and direction regarding the
8 use of the EMN8 Products and advertises, promotes, and encourages the use of the EMN8
9 Products.

10 44. On information and belief, Defendant actively induces others to infringe the '077
11 patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. §271(b) by knowingly encouraging, aiding and abetting
12 customers of EMN8, including consumers and restaurant operators, to use the infringing
13 EMN8 Products in the United States without authority or license from Ameranth.

14 45. On information and belief, Defendant contributorily infringes and continues to
15 contributorily infringe one or more valid and enforceable claims of the '077 patent, in violation
16 of 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) by offering to sell and/or selling components of systems on which claims
17 of the '077 patent read, constituting a material part of the invention, knowing that the
18 components were especially adapted for use in systems which infringe claims of the '077
19 patent.

20 46. By distributing, selling, offering, offering to sell or license and/or selling or licensing
21 the EMN8 Products, Defendant provides non-staple articles of commerce to others for use in
22 infringing systems, products, and/or services. Additionally, EMN8 provides instruction and
23 direction regarding the use of the EMN8 Products and advertises, promotes, and encourages
24 the use of the EMN8 Products. Users of the EMN8 Products directly infringe one or more
25 valid and enforceable claims of the '077 patent, for the reasons set forth hereinabove.

26 47. On information and belief, EMN8 has had knowledge of the '077 patent, including
27 knowledge that the EMN8 Products, which are non-staple articles of commerce, have been
28

1 used as a material part of the claimed invention of the '077 patent, and that there are no
2 substantial non-infringing uses for the EMN8 Products.

3 48. On information and belief, the aforesaid infringing activities of defendant EMN8
4 have been done with knowledge and willful disregard of Ameranth's patent rights, making this
5 an exceptional case within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 285.

6 49. The aforesaid infringing activity of defendant EMN8 has directly and proximately
7 caused damage to plaintiff Ameranth, including loss of profits from sales it would have made
8 but for the infringements. Unless enjoined, the aforesaid infringing activity will continue and
9 cause irreparable injury to Ameranth for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

10 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

11 WHEREFORE, plaintiff Ameranth respectfully prays for judgment against Defendant,
12 as follows:

13 1. Adjudging that the manufacture, use, offer for sale or license and /or sale or
14 license of the EMN8 Products indirectly infringes valid and enforceable claims of the '850
15 patent, and the '325 patent, and the '077 patent, as set forth hereinabove;

16 2. Adjudging that Defendant has infringed, actively induced others to infringe
17 and/or contributorily infringed valid and enforceable claims of the '850 patent, and the '325
18 patent, and the '077 patent, as set forth hereinabove;

19 3. Adjudging that Defendant's indirect infringement of the valid and enforceable
20 claims of the '850 patent, and the '325 patent, and the '077 patent, has been knowing and
21 willful;

22 4. Enjoining Defendant, and its officers, directors, employees, attorneys, agents,
23 representatives, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates and all other persons acting in concert,
24 participation or privity with Defendant, and their successors and assigns, from infringing,
25 contributorily infringing and/or inducing others to infringe the valid and enforceable claims of
26 the '850 patent, and the '325 patent, and the '077 patent;

27 5. Awarding Ameranth the damages it has sustained by reason of Defendant's
28 infringement, together with interest and costs pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

6. Awarding Ameranth increased damages of three times the amount of damages found or assessed against Defendant by reason of the knowing, willful and deliberate nature of Defendant's acts of infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;

7. Adjudging this to be an exceptional case and awarding Ameranth its attorney's fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §285;

8. Awarding to Ameranth its costs of suit, and interest as provided by law; and

9. Awarding to Ameranth such other and further relief that this Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Ameranth demands trial by jury of its claims set forth herein to the maximum extent permitted by law.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 29, 2012

CALDARELLI HEJMANOWSKI & PAGE LLP

By: /s/ William J. Caldarelli
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